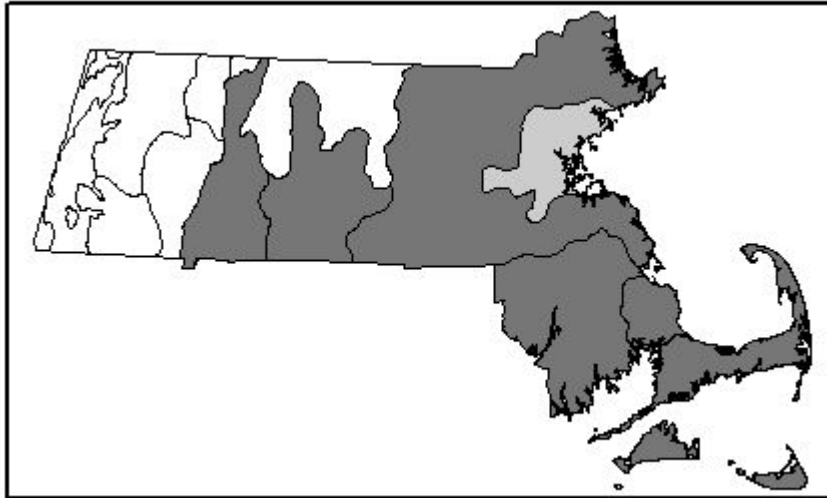


**Community Name:** MIXED OAK FOREST

**Community Code:** CT1A300000

**SRANK:** S5



**Concept:** A broadly defined community of tree oaks that grades into other more narrowly defined communities. Includes areas with open canopies that could be considered woodlands.

**Environmental Setting:** The community often occurs in areas that burn regularly. Tends to be on dry soils, and exposed slopes.

**Vegetation Description:** A variable mix of oak species dominate the canopy: black oak (*Quercus velutina*), scarlet oak (*Q. coccinea*), red oak (*Q. rubra*), chestnut oak (*Q. prinus*), and white (*Q. alba*). The canopy is somewhat open. An understory of saplings of canopy species, as well as gray birch (*Betula populifolia*), aspen (*Populus tremuloides*), big-toothed aspen (*Populus grandidentata*), black birch (*Betula lenta*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), and chestnut (*Castanea dentata*) is dense in patches. Blueberries (*Vaccinium angustifolium* and *V. pallidum*), huckleberry (*Gaylussacia baccata*), sweet fern (*Comptonia peregrina*), scrub oak (*Quercus ilicifolia*), and mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*) is also dense in patches. A scattered herbaceous layer includes Pennsylvania sedge (*Carex pensylvanica*), wild sarsaparilla (*Aralia nudicaulis*), poverty grass (*Danthonia spicata*), pinweed (*Lechea intermedia*), and pale corydalis (*Corydalis sempervirens*).

**Associations:** Part of a continuum of dry, acidic communities that contain a variety of tree oak and pine species. More work is needed to define types.

**Habitat Values for Associated Fauna:** Acorns are important for wildlife including white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*), black bear (*Ursus americanus*), grey squirrels (*Sciurus carolinensis*), and other small rodents. Birds include Wild Turkeys (*Meleagris gallopavo*). The understory of blueberries and huckleberries is used by many of these same species in areas with sufficiently large forests to provide all the habitat needs. Passerine birds of oak forests include Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*), Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*), Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*), Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*), Great Crested Flycatcher (*Miarchus crinitus*), Downy Woodpecker (*Picoides pubescens*), Hairy Woodpecker (*P. villosus*), and Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Melanerpes carolinus*). Amphibians expected include Northern Redback Salamanders (*Plethodon cinereus*), and Spotted Salamanders (*Ambystoma maculatum*). Ringneck Snake (*Diadophis punctatus*) and Redbelly Snake (*Storeria occipitomaculata*) would be expected.

**Associated Rare Plants:**

NONE KNOWN

**Associated Rare Animals:**

NONE KNOWN

Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

<b>Examples with Public Access:</b>	Mt. Tekoa WMA, Russell; Minute Man National Historic Park, Lexington; Douglas SF, Douglas.		
<b>Threats:</b>			
<b>Management Needs:</b>			
<b>Synonyms</b>			
<b>USNVC/TNC:</b>	Quercus prinus - ( <i>Quercus coccinea</i> , <i>Quercus velutina</i> ) Forest Alliance -- Quercus ( <i>prinus</i> , <i>velutina</i> ) / Gaylussacia baccata Forest [CEGL006282].		
<b>MA (old name):</b>	SNE MESIC OAK/PINE FOREST ON ACIDIC BEDROCK OR TILL and CNE DRY HARDWOOD FOREST ON ACIDIC BEDROCK OR TILL [CT2G2A2000].		
<b>ME:</b>	Part of Oak - pine Forest Community and related to Oak - Hickory Forest community.		
<b>NH:</b>	1997: Dry Appalachian oak-hickory forest, including Appalachian oak/heath variant. 1994: Dry Appalachian Oak - Hickory Forest, sub type Appalachian Oak - Heath forest.		
<b>VT:</b>	Pine-oak-heath sandplain forest.		
<b>NY:</b>	Related to: Oak-tulip tree forest, Appalachian oak-pine forest. In part, Chestnut oak forest.		
<b>CT:</b>	?Quercus velutina - ( <i>Quercus prinus</i> ) Forests.		
<b>RI:</b>	Part of Oak - Pine Forest and Oak - Hickory forest.		
<b>Weatherbee:</b>	Part of: Dry acidic oak/conifer forest community.		
<b>Author:</b>	P. Swain	<b>Date:</b>	8/31/99